

New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACT SHEET

Trends in new transfer enrollments

The opportunities for California students to begin their postsecondary education at a community college and transfer to a public university to complete their baccalaureate degree is a major cornerstone of the Master Plan for Higher Education in California. Over the past four decades, many hundreds of thousands of students have taken advantage of this route to a bachelor's degree. This factsheet examines recent trends in the enrollment of community college students who transferred to the state's public universities.

Overall, the number of community college students successfully transferring to the state's public universities continued to decline in 1997-98. New community college students enrolling at the State University declined by 5.8 percent from last year's level – this was the second year in which the enrollment of these students decreased. At the University of California, new community college transfer student enrollment dropped 2.7 percent from last year's level – this is the fourth year in which enrollment declines occurred. Since 1993-94, community college transfer enrollments at the University declined by 6.7 percent. These trends run counter to the growth in the community college student population and underscore the need to better understand these trends as well as the transfer process and outcomes.

At the California State University

In 1997-98, the numbers of community college students from all racial-ethnic groups who successfully transferred to the California State University decreased from their levels the previous year. The largest proportional declines occurred among Black and Filipino students. Examination of the number of applicants and the admission and enrollment rates of community college students seeking to transfer to the State University shows diverse origins for the declines.

Overall, the decline in the number of community college students enrolling at the State University was caused by a much lower admission rate – dropping from 78.6 percent in 1996-97 to 71.0 percent in 1997-98. Much stricter enforcement of the transfer requirements reduced a slightly larger applicant pool to a much smaller cohort of admitted transfer students. Some of this decline was mitigated by an increase in the enrollment rate of admitted students.

The reduction in the admission rate was fairly uniform across all student groups, but variations in the size of their applicant pools and their enrollment rates yielded a different pattern for each racial-ethnic group. Decreases in the number of Black and White applicants compounded the impact of the reduced admission rates which resulted in a much smaller pool of these students who were accepted.

DISPLAY 1 *New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities, 1993-94 to 1997-98*

		<u>California State University</u>					<u>University of California</u>				
Group		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Asian	Number	5,430	6,212	6,562	6,741	6,346	2,287	2,610	2,767	2,863	2,980
	Percent	14.4	15.5	15.9	16.7	16.8	22.3	24.8	27.7	29.4	30.5
Black	Number	2,444	2,654	2,836	2,799	2,442	306	364	386	318	293
	Percent	6.5	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.5	3.0	3.5	3.9	3.3	3.0
Filipino	Number	1,432	1,739	1,840	1,867	1,626	291	306	310	333	340
	Percent	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.3	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.5
Latino	Number	6,784	7,437	8,334	8,661	8,464	1,335	1,452	1,503	1,430	1,300
	Percent	18.0	18.6	20.3	21.5	22.4	13.0	13.9	15.0	14.7	13.3
Native American	Number	554	539	641	604	565	107	129	137	124	102
	Percent	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.0
White	Number	21,087	21,402	20,931	19,623	18,341	5,927	5,641	4,888	4,664	4,759
	Percent	55.9	53.5	50.9	48.7	48.5	57.8	53.8	48.9	47.9	48.7
Total*		44,454	46,912	48,688	48,349	45,546	10,940	10,929	10,886	10,492	10,210

*Total includes non-resident aliens and nonrespondents.

The enrollment rates of admitted Black and White students increased at an above average rate – the only positive influence on their enrollment numbers. The number of Asian, Latino, and Native American community college students seeking to transfer to the State University increased somewhat but their admission rates dropped substantially. In addition, their enrollment rate declined to a greater than average extent. Thus, both institutional decisions (admission rates) and student decisions (enrollment rates) reduced the number of these community college students enrolling at the State University.

At the University of California

Contrary to the statewide trend, the number of Asian and Filipino community college students successfully transferring to the University of California increased both in the current year and over the last five years. While the number of White community college students transferring to the University increased in 1997-98, the number of these students transferring is about 20 percent below their level of five years ago. The sharpest declines in the numbers of new community college transfer students occurred among Black, Latino, and Native American students.

The primary impetus behind the declining enrollment of community college students transferring to the University of California was a drop in the number of these students applying for transfer. The number of applicants from all racial-ethnic groups decreased, with the largest proportional declines occurring among Black, Latino, and Native American community college students. The admission rate of community college applicants actually increased in Fall 1997 over its level the previous fall, on a statewide basis and for all racial-ethnic groups, except Asian applicants. In addition, the enrollment rate of these students increased slightly that fall. Thus, the declines in community college students transferring to the University of California was primarily the result of the decisions by students not to apply for transfer to the University.

Difference among campuses

California State University: Contrary to the statewide trend, six campuses of the California State University increased the number of new community college students enrolling in 1997-98. These campuses included San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Fresno, Chico, Dominguez Hills, and Pomona which had a large increase in 1997 but was below its 1995-96 level. However, these increases were more than counterbalanced by the sizeable decreases in transfer students enrolling at the remaining 16 campuses.

The largest decreases occurred at San Francisco and Long Beach. Other campuses with sizeable decreases included Northridge, Fullerton, San Luis Obispo, and San Jose.

DISPLAY 2 New Community College Transfer Students at the California State University, by Campus, 1995-96 to 1997-98

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>
CSU Bakersfield	789	833	783
CSU Chico	2,087	2,056	2,111
CSU Dominguez	1,408	1,470	1,499
CSU Fresno	2,128	2,116	2,184
CSU Fullerton	3,526	3,785	3,518
CSU Hayward	2,247	2,219	2,056
Humboldt State	1,074	978	971
CSU Long Beach	3,625	3,794	3,148
CSU Los Angeles	1,909	2,104	2,230
CSU Northridge	3,905	3,738	3,388
Cal Poly Pomona	2,022	1,826	2,003
CSU Sacramento	3,892	3,688	3,573
CSU San Bernardino	1,791	1,794	1,924
San Diego State	4,547	4,513	4,322
San Francisco State	4,053	3,863	3,138
San Jose State	3,781	3,916	3,714
Cal Poly San Luis	1,970	1,593	1,342
CSU San Marcos	1,170	1,249	1,074
Sonoma State	1,172	1,176	1,059
CSU Stanislaus	1,132	1,197	1,157
CSU Monterey Bay	462	406	310
Maritime Academy	--	35	42

University of California. Community college transfer student enrollments did not decline at all campuses of the University. Over the last two year, Berkeley and San Diego have increased the number of these student who enrolled while Santa Cruz had maintained its new transfer student enrollments. The other five general campuses enrolled fewer community college transfer students; Irvine had the largest proportional decline in the enrollment of these students.

DISPLAY 3 New Community College Transfer Students at the University of California, by Campus, 1995-96 to 1997-98

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>
Berkeley	1,674	1,624	1,721
Davis	1,497	1,477	1,394
Irvine	996	934	820
Los Angeles	2,185	2,105	2,066
Riverside	868	843	814
San Diego	1,150	1,045	1,186
Santa Barbara	1,496	1,460	1,203
Santa Cruz	1,007	1,004	1,006
